

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
GREENVILLE DIVISION**

The Tool Shed, Inc.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Mattoon Rural King Supply, Inc. d/b/a
Rural King Supply

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 6:17-cv-01660-DCC

CONSENT CONFIDENTIALITY ORDER

Whereas, the parties to this Consent Confidentiality Order (“parties”), have stipulated that certain discovery material is and should be treated as confidential, and have agreed to the terms of this order; accordingly, it is this 30th day of January, 2018, ORDERED:

1. **Scope.** All documents produced in the course of discovery, all responses to discovery requests and all deposition testimony and deposition exhibits and any other materials which may be subject to discovery (hereinafter collectively “documents”) shall be subject to this Order concerning confidential information as set forth below.

2. **Form and Timing of Designation.** Confidential documents shall be so designated by placing or affixing the word “CONFIDENTIAL” or “CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” on the document in a manner which will not interfere with the legibility of the document and which will permit complete removal of the Confidential designation. Documents shall be designated CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY prior to, or contemporaneously with, the production or disclosure of the documents except for documents produced for inspection under the “Reading Room” provisions set forth in paragraph 4 below. Inadvertent or unintentional production of documents

without prior designation as confidential shall not be deemed a waiver, in whole or in part, of the right to designate documents as confidential as otherwise allowed by this Order.

3. **Documents Which May be Designated Confidential.**

a. Any party may designate documents as CONFIDENTIAL but only after review of the documents by an attorney¹ who has, in good faith, determined that the documents contain information protected from disclosure by statute, sensitive personal information, trade secrets, financial information, or confidential research, development, or commercial information. The certification shall be made concurrently with the disclosure of the documents, using the form attached hereto at Attachment A which shall be executed subject to the standards of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Information or documents which are available in the public sector may not be designated as confidential.

b. The CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY classification, being more highly protective of disclosure than the CONFIDENTIAL classification, governs information that an attorney, in good faith, determined would materially affect the business, financial, commercial, or proprietary technology interests of the party or person producing such material if such information is disclosed. Materials entitled to protection under the CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY designation are limited to business plans; marketing surveys; financial information, including but not limited to financial statements (such as budgets, sales or profit projections or reports, profit and loss statements, balance sheets and income statements); customer lists; documents that identify

¹ The attorney who reviews the documents and certifies them to be CONFIDENTIAL or ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY must be admitted to the Bar of at least one state but need not be admitted to practice in the District of South Carolina and need not apply for *pro hac vice* admission. By signing the certification, counsel submits to the jurisdiction of this court in regard to the certification.

customers or suppliers of the producing party or person; technical drawings and specifications; and documents related to the design, development and/or improvement of machinery, products or processes.

4. **Reading Room.** In order to facilitate timely disclosure of large numbers of documents which may contain confidential documents, but which have not yet been reviewed and marked, the following “Reading Room” provisions may be utilized.

a. Documents may be produced for review at the producing party’s facility or other controlled location (“Reading Room”), prior to designation as confidential. The review in the Reading Room will be conducted by the reviewing party’s outside counsel only. After review of these documents, the party seeking discovery may specify those for which further production is requested. The producing party shall then copy the requested documents for production. To the extent any of the requested documents warrant a CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY designation, the copies shall be so marked prior to further production.

b. Unless otherwise agreed or ordered, copies of Reading Room documents shall be requested within twenty days of review in the Reading Room and shall be produced within thirty days after the request is made.

c. The producing party shall maintain a log of persons who have reviewed documents in the Reading Room and the dates and time of their presence.

d. The production of documents for review within the confines of a Reading Room shall not be deemed a waiver of any claim of confidentiality or privilege, so long as the reviewing parties are advised that the Reading Room production is pursuant to this provision and that the Reading Room may contain confidential materials which have not yet been marked as confidential.

e. Until such time as further production is made of documents reviewed in a Reading Room, the reviewing party shall treat all material reviewed as if it was marked CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY at the time reviewed.

5. **Depositions.** Portions of depositions shall be deemed confidential only if designated as such when the deposition is taken or within seven business days after receipt of the transcript. Such designation shall be specific as to the portions to be protected.

6. **Protection of Confidential Material.**

a. **General Protections.** Documents designated CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY under this Order shall not be used or disclosed by the parties or counsel for the parties or any other persons identified below (§ 6.b.) for any purposes whatsoever other than preparing for and conducting the litigation in which the documents were disclosed (including any appeal of that litigation).

b. **Limited Third Party Disclosures.** The parties and counsel for the parties shall not disclose or permit the disclosure of any documents designated CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY under the terms of this Order to any other person or entity except as set forth in subparagraphs (1)-(2) below. For persons or entities defined in subparagraphs (1)(b), (1)(d), (1)(e), and (2)(c)-(d) below, disclosure shall not occur before the person to whom disclosure is to be made has executed an acknowledgment (in the form set forth at Attachment B hereto), that he or she has read and understands the terms of this Order and is bound by it.

(1) Subject to these requirements, the following categories of persons may be allowed to review documents which have been designated CONFIDENTIAL pursuant to this Order:

(a) counsel and employees of counsel for the parties who have responsibility for the preparation and trial of the lawsuit;

(b) parties and employees of a party to this Order but only to the extent counsel shall certify that the specifically named individual party or employee's assistance is necessary to the conduct of the litigation in which the information is disclosed²;

(c) court reporters engaged for depositions and those persons, if any, specifically engaged for the limited purpose of making photocopies of documents;

(d) consultants, investigators, or experts (hereinafter referred to collectively as "experts") employed by the parties or counsel for the parties to assist in the preparation and trial of the lawsuit; and

(e) other persons only upon consent of the producing party or upon order of the court and on such conditions as are agreed to or ordered.

(2) Subject to these requirements, the following categories of persons may be allowed to review documents which have been designated CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY pursuant to this Order:

(a) counsel and employees of counsel for the parties, and in-house counsel after completing his or her acknowledgment of review of this Order and agreement to be bound by it (Attachment B hereto), who have responsibility for the preparation and trial of the lawsuit;

² At or prior to the time such party or employee completes his or her acknowledgment of review of this Order and agreement to be bound by it (Attachment B hereto), counsel shall complete a certification in the form shown at Attachment C hereto. Counsel shall retain the certification together with the form signed by the party or employee.

(b) court reporters engaged for depositions and those persons, if any, specifically engaged for the limited purpose of making photocopies of documents;

(c) experts employed by the parties or counsel for the parties to assist in the preparation and trial of the lawsuit. In addition to a signed Acknowledgement in the form of Attachment B to this Protective Order, the written notice will include: (1) name, business address, title, and profession of the proposed person; (ii) any previous or current relationship (personal or professional) between the proposed person and any of the parties or their counsel; and (iii) a resume or curriculum vitae of the proposed person, if one exists. The receiving party shall not disclose any CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY information to the proposed person unless the producing party or producing witness approves of such disclosure or by Order of the Court. The producing party or producing witness shall have ten (10) calendar days after receipt of such notice of proposed person to challenge the substance or sufficiency of the notice by providing a detailed, written explanation and basis for the challenge. A failure of the producing party or producing witness to timely challenge such notice shall constitute approval of disclosure to the proposed person. Upon conclusion of this matter, outside experts and consultants shall return or destroy all CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY material in their possession, including notes or other documents prepared relating to the CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY material. The parties shall not seek discovery (whether by subpoena, deposition or otherwise) from any expert whose identity has become known due to the requirements of this paragraph unless and until such expert has been designated as a testifying expert pursuant to the Scheduling Order and Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A); and

(d) other persons only upon consent of the producing party or upon order of the court and on such conditions as are agreed to or ordered.

c. **Control of Documents.** Counsel for the parties shall take reasonable efforts to prevent unauthorized disclosure of documents designated as CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY pursuant to the terms of this order. Counsel shall maintain a record of those persons listed in subparagraphs (1)(b), (1)(d), 1(e), and (2)(c)-(d) who have reviewed or been given access to the documents along with the originals of the forms signed by those persons acknowledging their obligations under this Order.

d. **Copies.** All copies, duplicates, extracts, summaries or descriptions (hereinafter referred to collectively as “copies”), of documents designated as CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY under this Order or any portion of such a document, shall be immediately affixed with the designation CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY, as applicable, if the words do not already appear on the copy. All such copies shall be afforded the full protection of this Order.

7. **Filing of Confidential Materials.** In the event a party seeks to file any material that is subject to protection under this Order with the court, that party shall take appropriate action to insure that the documents receive proper protection from public disclosure including: (1) filing a redacted document with the consent of the party who designated the document as confidential; (2) where appropriate (*e.g.* in relation to discovery and evidentiary motions), submitting the documents solely for *in camera* review; or (3) where the preceding measures are not adequate, seeking permission to file the document under seal pursuant to the procedural steps set forth in Local Civil Rule 5.03, DSC, or such other rule or procedure as may apply in the relevant jurisdiction. Absent extraordinary circumstances making prior consultation impractical or inappropriate, the party seeking to submit the document to the court shall first consult with

counsel for the party who designated the document as confidential to determine if some measure less restrictive than filing the document under seal may serve to provide adequate protection. This duty exists irrespective of the duty to consult on the underlying motion. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as a prior directive to the Clerk of Court to allow any document be filed under seal. The parties understand that documents may be filed under seal only with the permission of the court after proper motion pursuant to Local Civil Rule 5.03.

8. **Greater Protection of Specific Documents.** No party may withhold information from discovery on the ground that it requires protection greater than that afforded by this Order unless the party moves for an Order providing such special protection.

9. **Challenges to Designation as Confidential.** Any CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY designation is subject to challenge. The following procedures shall apply to any such challenge.

a. The burden of proving the necessity of a Confidential designation remains with the party asserting confidentiality.

b. A party who contends that documents designated CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY are not entitled to confidential treatment shall give written notice to the party who affixed the designation of the specific basis for the challenge(s). The party who so designated the documents shall have fifteen (15) days from service of the written notice to determine if the dispute can be resolved without judicial intervention and, if not, to move for an Order confirming the Confidential designation.

c. Notwithstanding any challenge to the designation of documents as confidential, all material previously designated CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY shall continue to be treated as subject to the full protections of this Order until one of the following occurs:

(1) the party who claims that the documents are confidential withdraws such designation in writing;

(2) the party who claims that the documents are confidential fails to move timely for an Order designating the documents as confidential as set forth in paragraph 9.b. above; or

(3) the court rules that the documents should no longer be designated as confidential information.

d. Challenges to the confidentiality of documents may be made at any time and are not waived by the failure to raise the challenge at the time of initial disclosure or designation.

10. Treatment on Conclusion of Litigation.

a. **Order Remains in Effect.** All provisions of this Order restricting the use of documents designated CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY shall continue to be binding after the conclusion of the litigation unless otherwise agreed or ordered.

b. **Return of CONFIDENTIAL and CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY Documents.** Within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the litigation, including conclusion of any appeal, all documents treated as confidential under this Order, including copies as defined above (¶6.d.) shall be returned to the producing party unless: (1) the document has been entered as evidence or filed (unless introduced or filed under seal); (2) the parties stipulate to destruction in lieu of return; or (3) as to documents containing the notations, summations, or other mental impressions of the receiving party, that party elects destruction. Notwithstanding the above requirements to return or destroy documents, counsel may retain attorney work product including an index which refers or relates to information designated CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY so long as that work

product does not duplicate verbatim substantial portions of the text of confidential documents. This work product continues to be Confidential under the terms of this Order. An attorney may use his or her work product in a subsequent litigation provided that its use does not disclose the confidential documents.

11. **Order Subject to Modification.** This Order shall be subject to modification on motion of any party or any other person who may show an adequate interest in the matter to intervene for purposes of addressing the scope and terms of this Order. The Order shall not, however, be modified until the parties shall have been given notice and an opportunity to be heard on the proposed modification.

12. **No Judicial Determination.** This Order is entered based on the representations and agreements of the parties and for the purpose of facilitating discovery. Nothing herein shall be construed or presented as a judicial determination that any specific document or item of information designated as CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY by counsel is subject to protection under Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or otherwise until such time as a document-specific ruling shall have been made.

13. **Persons Bound.** This Order shall take effect when entered and shall be binding upon all counsel in this action and their respective law firms and clients.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Donald C. Coggins, Jr.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

January 30, 2018
Spartanburg, South Carolina

ATTACHMENT A

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
GREENVILLE DIVISION

The Tool Shed, Inc.,

Plaintiff,

v.

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Rural King Supply

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 6:17-cv-01660-DCC

Certification by Counsel of Designation of
Information as Confidential

Documents produced herewith [**whose bates numbers are listed below (or) which are listed on the attached index**] have been marked as CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY subject to the Confidentiality Order entered in this action which Order is dated [confidentiality order date].

By signing below, I am certifying that I have personally reviewed the marked documents and believe, based on that review, that they are properly subject to protection under the terms of Paragraph 3 of the Confidentiality Order.

Check and complete one of the two options below.

- ☐ I am a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. My District Court Bar number is [District Court Bar #].
- ☐ I am not a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina but am admitted to the bar of one or more states. The state in which I conduct the majority of my practice is [state in which I practice most] where my Bar number is [that state's Bar #]. I understand that by completing this certification I am submitting to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina as to any matter relating to this certification.

Date: [date attachment A signed]

[Signature of Counsel [s/name]]
Signature of Counsel

[Printed Name of Counsel [A]]
Printed Name of Counsel

ATTACHMENT B

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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GREENVILLE DIVISION**

The Tool Shed, Inc.,

Plaintiff,

v.

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Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 6:17-cv-01660-DCC

Acknowledgement of Understanding
And
Agreement to be Bound

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that he or she has read the Confidentiality Order dated [confidentiality order date], in the above captioned action, understands the terms thereof, and agrees to be bound by such terms. The undersigned submits to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina in matters relating to the Confidentiality Order and understands that the terms of said Order obligate him/her to use discovery materials designated CONFIDENTIAL or CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY solely for the purposes of the above-captioned action, and not to disclose any such confidential information to any other person, firm or concern.

The undersigned acknowledges that violation of the Stipulated Confidentiality Order may result in penalties for contempt of court.

Name: [undersigned name [att B]]

Job Title: [Job Title [att B]]

Employer: [Employer [att B]]

Business Address: [Business Address [att B]]

Date: **[date attachment B signed]**

[Signature [attachment B]]

Signature

ATTACHMENT C

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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The Tool Shed, Inc.,

Plaintiff,

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Mattoon Rural King Supply, Inc. d/b/a
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Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 6:17-cv-01660-DCC

Certification of Counsel of Need for
Assistance of Party/Employee

Pursuant to the Confidentiality Order entered in this action, most particularly the provisions of Paragraph 6.b.2., I certify that the assistance of [name of assistant [att C]] is reasonably necessary to the conduct of this litigation and that this assistance requires the disclosure to this individual of information which has been designated as CONFIDENTIAL.

I have explained the terms of the Confidentiality Order to the individual named above and will obtain his or her signature on an "Acknowledgment of Understanding and Agreement to be Bound" prior to releasing any confidential documents to the named individual and I will release only such confidential documents as are reasonably necessary to the conduct of the litigation.

The individual named above is:

- ☐ A named party;
- ☐ An employee of named party [employee of named party]. This employee's job title is [employee's job title] and work address is [employee's work address].

Date: **[date attachment C signed]**

[Signature [attachment C]]
Signature

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